on the Government. The Spices Board has been advised to devise a suitable scheme in the light of this policy.

Empanelment of 1962 batch of IAS Officers

*434. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether government have received direct representations from the officers and also the public representatives about the grievances expressed regarding empanelment of 1962 batch of IAS officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that some officers from 1962 batch who served as long as ten years in international agencies have been empanelled as Secretaries;

(d) if so, the details of officers of 1962 batch who have been empanelled as Secretaries after serving for six years or more abroad;

(e) in what way will the experience of such officers be useful to Government of India and

(f) whether Government would review the promotion and empanelment of such officers who have spent a large part of their career abroad with the international agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received in respect of 4 IAS officers of 1962 batch for review of their cases for empanelment to hold a Secretary level posts at the Centre.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There are no such officers.

(e) The experience gained by the officers during their employment in the international agencies is useful to the Government of India in view of the global perspectives and insights acquired in relation to different areas of public administration.

(f) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Advance to Russia for Purchase of Tobacco.

*435. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO :
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt. of India have given ad-hoc advance to the Govt. of Russia for import of Tobacco from India;

(b) if so, what is the amount;

(c) whether the advance has been fully utilised for the same purpose by the Russian Government;

(d) to what extent this ad-hoc advance has been helpful to the Tobacco growers in India;

(e) whether such arrangement is made for other items also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 100 crores.

(c) An amount of Rs. 94.37 crores has already been utilised for purchase of Tobacco.

(d) Because of the release of ad-hoc advance, declining trend of auction floor prices in the Northern and Central Black Soil Regions was reversed. Had the uncertainty regarding Russian purchases continued, the market situation would have been much worse.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

India's balance of trade position during the last three years

*436. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *ALIAS* MEEM AFZAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) in what manner India's balance of trade compares with the corresponding figures at the close of the last three financial years; and

(b) what concrete steps are contemplated to achieve positive balance of trade figure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Figures of India's balance of trade for the last three financial years and for April-June '93, the latest period for which such data are available, are as under :